1	2	3
West Bengal		
1	Upper Kangsabati Reservior	April, 1980
2	Modernisation of Kangsabati Reservior	June, 1983
Union Territories :		
Arunachal Pradesh		
1	Dehang Dam	July, 1984
2	Subansiri Dam	July, 1984

Steps taken for welfare of the Blind

2624. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR; SHRI S.W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased t_0 state:

(a) what steps hav$_e$ been taken for the welfare of the blind during the years 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85;

(b) what instruments have been imported for the blind as an aid for reading and for other requirements; and

(c) whether there is any programme for manufacture of such aids in our country; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Government of India have taken the following steps for the welfare of the Wind during the year 1982-83, 1983-84 & 1984-85; *Employment*

1. 3 per cent vacancies in Central Government and Central Public Sector-Undertakings in Group 'C and 'D' posts have been reserved for the physically handicapped of which 1 per cent is for the blind persons. According to information received, the number of blind person$_s$ appointed in group 'C and 'D' in Central Government offices and Public Sector Undertakings is as under:—

	Ministries/Departments		Public Sector Undertakings	
	C	D	C	D
1982	20	35	52	40
1983	31	63	26	18
1984	34	26	54	10

2. lobs which can be performed by blind persons without loss of efficiency have also been identified. 120 different cafgories of jobs have been identified as suitable for the blind out of a total of about 1100 categories suitable for the handicapped.

3. Age relaxation upto 10 years is available for appointment to posts in Group 'C and 'D'.

4. Government of India has set up a Centra! Advisory Committee on Employ ment under the Chairmanship of Secretary

Social Welfare to oversee the impemen-tation of reservation orders in various Ministries/Departments.

5. 22 Special Employment Exchanges have been set up acros$_s$ the country for the placement of physically handicapped persons, including blind, in gainful employment. During 1982-83, 31 Special Cells in norm'al employment exchanges were sanctioned to exclusively register and place physically handicapped including the blind in jobs. During the past three years, the number of blind persons given placement by Special Employment Exchanges, Special Cells and normal e xehanges is as follows :-

Year	No. of blind persons placed in employment
1982	652
1983	285
1984	245

6.14 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled arrange the training and place them i$_n$ regular employment. Six skill training workshop have been 'added ihos$_e$ Vocational Rehabilitation Centres. 11 Rural Rehabilitation Centres have been added in order to promote the placement of the handicapped in rural areas. During the past three years, number of blind persons rehabilitated is as follows:—

Year	No. of persons rehabilitated
1982	409
1983	415
1984	532

7. Ministry of Tele-Communications given Public Telephone Booths to handi-capped persons including blind persons to help them earn a li ving. Till 31-12-1984, more than '-'-000 public telephone booths have been given to handicapped persons, including the blind.

8. Loans are available from banks at nominal rates of interest t o enable the handicapped persons including the blind for setting up self-employment ventures.

9. To encourage their employment in public and private secto^ Government of India give$_s$ national awards to the most efficient employees and outstanding em-ployers of handicapped including blind.

10. To promote their employment in priate sector, incentive i s given to em ployers by weighted d eduction of 133 per cent of salaries paid to handicapped em-loyee$_s$ for purposes °f income tax rebate.

Education and Training

11. Education is available free blind persons in schools and institutions run by Government of Tndia and State Govern ments,

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12. To assist in securing education, academic technical/professional training op training on the shop floor of industrial establishment, scholarships/stipends are given from 9th class ownards. In addition to th$_e$ scholarship, reader's allowance is given to blind students. During the past 3 years, the number of blind student$_s$ given

Year	No. of Students	Amount spent
		(Rs.)
1982	1307	11·14 lakhs
1983	1865*	18·43 lakhs*
1984	1460*	18·70 lakhs*

scholarship and the amount spent is as follows: -----

♦Information for 1983-84 and 1984-85 is partial as it has not been received from some State Governments.

13, Under Integrated Education Scheme, blind children are given following facili ties:—

(1) Equipment allowance of Rs. 800|- (to be spend over the period of five years).

(2) Book and stationery allowance of Rs. 400|- per child per year.

(3) Readers' allowance of Rs. 50|-per month.

Hostellers are given free boarding and lodging, if their parents income is less than Rs. 700/-per month.

14. A scheme for granting financial assistance to voluntary organisations to enable the voluntary sector to expand their activities in education training and rehabilitation of disabled persons is ad ministered by the Ministry of Welfare. During the past 3 years; the number of iorganisations given assistance and the amount spent is as follows:—

15. Under the Scheme of Aids and Appliances, educational aids for the blind like braille slates were given either free of cost or at 50 per cent of the cost to those whose income was less than Rs-750|-p.m. and between Rs. 751 and Rs. 1500]-per month. During the past three years the number of blind assisted under this scheme and amount spent is as follows:—

Year	No. of organisations for the blind	Amount spent
		(Rs.)
1982-83	32	52·65 lakhs
1983-84	36	50·29 lakhs
1984-85	34	62·13 lakhs

Year	No. of blind assisted	Amount spent
		(Rs.)
1982-83	969	74,47000
1983-84*	217	22,587·00
1984-85*	959	55,741·00

*Information has not been received from all implementing agencies.

National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun

16. The National Institute for the Visually Handicapped set up in 1979 was developed into an apex organisation to deal with development of manpower, re search and development of rehabilitation services for the visually handicapped in the country. It has initiated several training and research programmes during the past three years.

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17. Priority is given in allotment of re-sidential accommodation to blind Govern-ment employees enabling them to secure allotment much ahead of their turn.

18. Payment of postage is exempted both inland and foreign for transmission by post of braille literature^

19. Institutions for the blind are permit ted to import equipment and apparatus required for education and training of blind free of duty.

20. Central Government blind employ ees are granted conveyance alowance @ 10 per cent of basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 per month.

21. Travel concessions are available to blind:—

(1) Upto 50 per cent for travel by Indian Airlines;

(2) 75 per cent travel by Rail; and

(3) Ranging from 50 per cent to free travel by buses of various State Trans port Corporation.

(b) The Ministry has not imported any aids for the blind from abroad during this period.

(c) The National Institute for Visually Handicapped, Dehradiin, manufactures the following aids:—

(1) Braille slates (2~) Abracus (3) plastic Stylus (4) Pocket Frame (5) Braille scales (6) Folding sticks (7) Straight cane (8) Chess Board (9) Playing Cards.